



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

REGION 6

1445 ROSS AVENUE, SUITE 1200
DALLAS, TX 75202-2733

JUN 23 2009

CERCLA 104(e) INFORMATION REQUEST
URGENT LEGAL MATTER: PROMPT REPLY REQUESTED
VIA FEDERAL EXPRESS

Norphlet Chemical, Inc.
Attn: John L. Garrison
Chief Executive Officer
600 Macmillian Drive
Norphlet, AR 71759

Re: Norphlet Chemical Superfund Site, Norphlet, Union County, Arkansas
SSID No. A6N8, EPA ID No. ARN000606985

Dear Mr. Garrison:

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) seeks cooperation from Norphlet Chemical, Inc., in providing information and documents relating to the Norphlet Chemical Superfund Site (Site). Your information will aid EPA in its investigation of the release or threat of release of certain hazardous substances, pollutants or contaminants at this Site.

The Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA) Section 104(e), 42 U.S.C. § 9604(e), gives EPA the authority to require that you respond to this information request (see Enclosure 1). We encourage your company to give this matter its full attention, and *we respectfully request that Norphlet Chemical Inc. respond to this request for information within thirty (30) days of its receipt of this letter.* You may designate another official of Norphlet Chemical, Inc. with the requisite authority to respond on behalf of the company. However, failure to respond to an information request may result in EPA seeking penalties of up to \$37,500 per day of violation. In addition, furnishing false, fictitious or fraudulent statements or representations is subject to criminal penalty under 18 U.S.C. § 1001.

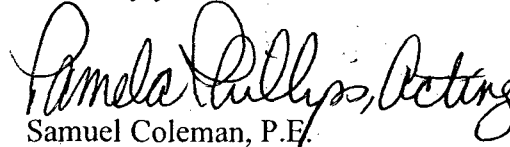
Please provide a written response to Ms. Jamie Bradsher, Enforcement Officer, at the address included in the Information Request. Please refer to the enclosures below, which include important instructions and definitions, as well as the questions for response, in the preparation of your reply to this Information Request.



868852

If you have any questions regarding this letter, please contact Ms. Bradsher at (214) 665-7111. For legal questions concerning this letter, please have your counsel contact Mr. James L. Turner, Senior Attorney at (214) 665-3159. Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Samuel Coleman, P.E.", with the word "Acting" written in a smaller, less legible script to the right of the main signature.

Samuel Coleman, P.E.

Director

Superfund Division

Enclosures (3)

cc: Donald Dodson, Counsel
John L. Garrison, Registered Agent
Jim Crotty, Managing Director

ENCLOSURE 1

NORPHLET CHEMICAL SUPERFUND SITE INFORMATION REQUEST

RESPONSE TO INFORMATION REQUEST

Under the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA), commonly known as the federal "Superfund" law, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) responds to the release or threat of release of hazardous substances, pollutants or contaminants into the environment to stop additional contamination and to clean-up or otherwise address any prior contamination.

EPA is requesting information under CERCLA Section 104(e). Section 104(e) may be found in the United States Code (U.S.C.) at Title 42 Section (section is denoted by the symbol "§") 9604(e). 42 U.S.C. §9604(e).

Pursuant to the authority of CERCLA §104(e), you are hereby requested to respond to the enclosed information request. If you have any questions concerning the Site's history or this information request letter, please contact Ms. Jamie Bradsher, the designated Enforcement Officer for the Site, at phone number (214) 665-7111, fax number (214) 665-6660 or via email at Bradsher.Jamie@epa.gov. Please mail your response within 30 calendar days of your receipt of this request to the following address:

Ms. Jamie Bradsher, Enforcement Officer
Superfund Enforcement Assessment Section (6SF-TE)
U.S. EPA, Region 6
1445 Ross Avenue
Dallas, TX 75202-2733

If you or your attorney have legal questions that pertain to this letter information request, please contact Mr. James L. Turner at phone number (214) 665-3159, fax number (214) 665-6660 or via email at Turner.James@epa.gov. For contact via mail, use the following address:

Mr. James Turner, Senior Attorney
Office of Regional Counsel (6RC-S)
U. S.EPA Region 6
1445 Ross Avenue
Dallas, Texas 75202-2733

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Norphlet Chemical Superfund Site ("facility" or "Site") is located outside of El Dorado, Arkansas at the location of the former Macmillan Oil Refinery (a previous Non-NPL Removal Action). The facility is a chemical manufacturing plant in the business of producing a refrigerant (HFC-134a) used in automobiles. The primary raw materials for manufacturing this product are Anhydrous Hydrogen Fluoride (AHF), Trichloroethylene (TCE), and a catalyst. The apparent Site owner and operator Norphlet Chemical, Inc. appears to have attempted to produce the HFC-134a under a tolling agreement, which was purported to be with Tulstar Refrigerants LLC (a non-existent company) and later Tulstar Refrigerants, Inc., an apparent subsidiary of Tulstar Products, Inc. of Tulsa, Oklahoma. The production was ultimately unsuccessful.

The EPA became aware of this facility in March 2009 and immediately informed the Arkansas Department of Environmental Quality (ADEQ). The EPA offered its assistance if deemed necessary by the ADEQ. On April 15, 2009, the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) conducted an Infrastructure Protection Inspection of the facility and was alarmed with its conditions and the fact that it was abandoned. On April 15, 2009, DHS contacted EPA about their concerns with the site. The major concern was that the abandoned facility had containers of AHF and mixtures of AHF, TCE, and intermediate refrigerants. In addition, the conditions of these containers were questionable. The EPA and DHS contacted various State authorities and then participated in a call concerning the Site. On April 16, 2009, EPA received a written request from ADEQ to address the situation at the Site; and on that same date Union County Judge Bobby Edmonds declared an emergency. Because of the County emergency order and the close proximity of the facility to a local school, the school was closed on Friday, April 17, 2009.

The EPA dispatched its START Contractors to begin air monitoring, and the OSC arrived on the Site on April 17, 2009. EPA representatives met with Federal, State, County, and City officials and evaluated the Site. The EPA then determined that an Imminent and Substantial Endangerment existed as a result of the abandonment of the facility, the conditions of the tanks, and the close proximity of the school and surrounding residents to the facility. On April 19, 2009, EPA attempted its first transfer of material from the facility tanks into tanker trucks for off-site transport. In order to accomplish this, piping was removed from the tanks to allow the connection of a pump and hoses. The transfer operation failed due to pump problems; however, there were no injuries or significant releases of material. The EPA determined that high pressure special tankers or intermodal containers were necessary for storage and transport of the facility refrigerant intermediates, including the AHF Mixture tanks, and that special pump equipment would also be necessary to effect safe transfers. Appropriate adjustments and arrangements were made, including air emission controls and air monitoring and sampling; and the EPA began the successful transfer and load-out of the facility tank contents on April 30, 2009, with the transfer of TT13 contents into a tanker. A railcar operated by Solvay Chemicals received transfer of over 8,000 gallons of nearly pure AHF on May 3, 2009. Tank content transfer and tanker loading and transport operations continued through May 19, 2009, while tank and pipe decontamination operations were completed by June 10, 2009. The on-site scrubber system was disassembled and associated vapor lines were cut up, removed, and decontaminated. The Baker Frac Tank, which was irreparable, was demolished. Various decontamination and disposal activities will continue.

ENCLOSURE 2

NORPHLET SUPURFUND SITE INFORMATION REQUEST

INSTRUCTIONS and DEFINITIONS

INSTRUCTIONS

1. Please provide a separate narrative response for each and every Question and subpart of a Question set forth in this Information Request.
2. Precede each answer with the Question (or subpart) and the number of the Question (and the letter of a subpart of a Question, if applicable) to which it corresponds.
3. If information or documents not known or not available to you as of the date of submission of a response to this Information Request should later become known or available to you, ***you must supplement*** your response to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). Moreover, should you find, at any time, after submission of your response, that any portion of the submitted information is false or misrepresents the truth, or, though correct when made, is no longer true, you must notify EPA of this fact as soon as possible and provide EPA with a corrected response.
4. For each document produced in response to this Information Request, indicate on the document, or in some other reasonable manner, the number of the Question (and the letter of a subpart of a Question, if applicable) to which it responds.
5. You may assert a business confidentiality claim covering part or all of the information which you submit in response to this request. Any such claim must be made by placing on (or attaching to) the information, at the time it is submitted to EPA, a cover sheet or a stamped or typed legend or other suitable form of notice employing language such as "trade secret," "proprietary," or "company confidential." Confidential portions of otherwise non-confidential documents should be clearly identified and may be submitted separately to facilitate identification and handling by EPA. If you make such a claim, the information covered by that claim will be disclosed by EPA only to the extent, and by means of the procedures, set forth in subpart B of 40 CFR Part 2. If no such claim accompanies the information when it is received by EPA, it may be made available to the public by EPA without further notice to you. The requirements of 40 CFR Part 2 regarding business confidentiality claims were published in the Federal Register on September 1, 1976, and were amended September 8, 1976, and December 18, 1985.
6. Personal Privacy Information. Personnel and medical files, and similar files the disclosure of which to the general public may constitute an invasion of privacy should be segregated from your responses, included on separate sheet(s), and marked as "Personal Privacy Information."

7. Objections to questions. If you have objections to some or all the questions within the Information Request Letter, you are still required to respond to each of the questions.

DEFINITIONS

The following definitions shall apply to the following words as they appear in this enclosure:

1. The terms "and" and "or" shall be construed either disjunctively or conjunctively as necessary to bring within the scope of this Information Request any information which might otherwise be construed to be outside its scope.
2. The term "any", as in "any documents" for example, shall mean "any and all."
3. The term "arrangement" means every separate contract or other agreement between two or more persons.
4. The terms "document(s)" and "documentation" shall mean any object that records, stores, or presents information, and includes writings of any kind, formal or informal, whether or not wholly or partially in handwriting, including by way of illustration and not by way of limitation, any invoice, manifest, bill of lading, receipt, endorsement, check, bank draft, canceled check, deposit slip, withdrawal slip, order, correspondence, record book, minutes, memorandum of telephone and other conversations including meetings, agreements and the like, diary, calendar, desk pad, scrapbook, notebook, bulletin, circular, form, pamphlet, statement, journal, postcard, letter, telegram, telex, telecopy, telefax, report, notice, message, analysis, comparison, graph, chart, map, interoffice or intra office communications, photostat or other copy of any documents, microfilm or other film record, any photograph, sound recording on any type of device, any punch card, disc pack; any tape or other type of memory generally associated with computers and data processing (together with the programming instructions and other-written material necessary to use such punch card, disc, or disc pack, tape or other type of memory and together with the printouts of such punch card, disc, or disc pack, tape or other type of memory); and (a) every copy of each document which is not an exact duplicate of a document which is produced, (b) every copy which has any writing, figure or notation, annotation or the like on it, (c) drafts, (d) attachments to or enclosures with any document and (e) every document referred to in any other document.
5. The term "identify" means, with respect to a natural person, to set forth the person's name, present or last known business and personal addresses, email address(es), and telephone numbers, and present or last known job title, position or business. Also provide e-mail addresses.

6. The term "identify" means, with respect to a corporation, partnership, business trust or other association or business entity (including, but not limited to, a sole proprietorship), to set forth its full name, address, and legal form (e.g. corporation [including state of incorporation], partnership, etc.), organization, if any, a brief description of its business, and to indicate whether or not it is still in existence and, if it is no longer in existence, to explain how its existence was terminated and to indicate the date on which it ceased to exist. Also provide e-mail addresses.
7. The term "identify" means, with respect to a document, to provide the type of document, to provide its customary business description, its date, its number, if any (invoice or purchase order number), subject matter, the identity of the author, addressor, addressee and/or recipient, and the present location of such document.
8. The term "person" shall have the same definition as in Subsection 101 (21) of CERCLA, 42 U.S.C. § 9601 (21).
9. The term "Site" shall mean and include the Norphlet Chemical Site located in Norphlet, Union County, Arkansas, both before and after EPA response action under CERCLA.
10. The term "Tulstar" shall mean and include Tulstar Products, Inc., Tulstar Refrigerants, Inc., Tulstar Refrigerants LLC, and/or any other Tulstar companies.
11. The term "you" or "Respondent" shall mean the addressee of this Request, the addressee's officers, managers, employees, contractors, trustees, partners, successors and agents.
12. Words in the masculine shall be construed in the feminine, and vice versa, and words in the singular shall be construed in the plural, and vice versa, where appropriate in the context of a particular question or questions as necessary to bring within the scope of this Information Request any information which might otherwise be construed to be outside its scope.
13. All terms not defined herein shall have their ordinary meaning, unless such terms are defined in CERCLA, RCRA, 40 CFR Part 300 or 40 CFR Parts 260-280, in which case the statutory or regulatory definitions shall apply.

ENCLOSURE 3

NORPHLET CHEMICAL SUPERFUND SITE INFORMATION REQUEST

QUESTIONS

1. Identify the person(s) that answer(s) the below questions on behalf of Norphlet Chemical, Inc. (Norphlet).
2. Identify any persons (including former and current employees), corporations, and/or business entities, which may be knowledgeable of Norphlet's operations and hazardous material handling storage and disposal practices, including those who may have responsive documents or records.
3. Does Norphlet now have, or has it in the past had, a permit or permits (or equivalent) issued under either RCRA, or the hazardous waste laws of the State of Arkansas? If so, provide pertinent details and complete copies of such documents.
4. Does Norphlet have an EPA Identification Number, or an identification number supplied by the Arkansas Department of Environmental Quality (ADEQ)? If so, provide any such identification numbers applicable to your company or business.
5. Provide a schematic diagram or flow chart that fully describes and or illustrates Norphlet's processes and operations.
6. List the specific raw materials used in Norphlet's operations, and the products and by-products manufactured, recycled, recovered, treated, or otherwise processed in these operations. In this question, "raw materials" would include any chemical intermediates or finished specialty chemicals that may be used in your processes or operations.
7. List the specific step by step process used by Norphlet for making the product designated as HFC-134a. Include in the description all materials/chemicals that are used in the process, and any waste materials that are by-products of the process, and include the handling and disposition of such materials during and after the process.
8. Identify all known leaks and spills of process or waste materials by specific compound or substance at the Norphlet Site, including the amount of the leak or spill, the date it occurred and how it occurred. If any substances are regulated by EPA under RCRA, CERCLA, or other statutes were involved in such leaks or spills, provide the identifying EPA codes or designations for such substances. Identify any persons involved in cleanup or repair of any such leaks or spills.
9. Identify all companies, facilities and persons from which/whom Norphlet obtained, or which/who supplied, materials (or raw materials) containing any constituents that are determined by regulation to be hazardous substances under CERCLA by the EPA.

10. Describe the role of Jones-Hamilton Company (JHC) of Ohio at the Site, and discuss the role of JHC as it pertains to the contractual agreement to purchase HCL and any other JHC activities at the Site, including any day to day activities. Identify any persons who were JHC employees involved in the process. Also provide any contract agreements with your company and JHC.
11. Provide a copy of the tolling agreement between Norphlet and Tulstar, including any restatements, amendments, or other documents in relation thereto. -If there are any other tolling agreements, or joint operating agreements, with other companies, provide copies of such agreements.
12. What was Norphlet's relationship with Mexichem? Provide copies of all contracts or agreements between Norphlet and Mexichem, as well as any import or export documents, bills of lading, payment documents, receipts, or the like. (This would be deemed to include copies of any documents generated between or in connection with Tulstar and Mexichem for the Norphlet Site). Provide the date(s) of origination, border transit, and receipt of any Mexichem shipments.
13. What was the agreement, if any, between Honeywell and Norphlet Chemical and Tulstar? Please provide any contracts or agreements concerning any parties associated with Honeywell.
14. Provide the specific policy coverage documents for the Ironshore (IronEnviro Insurance Binder) or any other environmental liability insurance coverage, for your company, during all periods insured.
15. What was the effective date of your company's tolling agreement to manufacture HFC-134a for Tulstar? What was the date of any corrected or restated version of the same contract? What was the date of any amendment to such contract dealing with the disposition of HCL from the process? Provide copies of any and all such documents not already provided under question no. 11 above.
16. Was any notice given by your company to the Arkansas Department of Economic Development, or other entity, of the restatement or amendment of any contract referred to in question 15 above? If so given, provide a copy of any such notice(s) and related documents and any enclosure(s) or attachment(s) to either.